Multimedia SIG

High Definition STB with PVR Function

For the Budget Minded

Neil Muller & Brian Robson,
March 2011

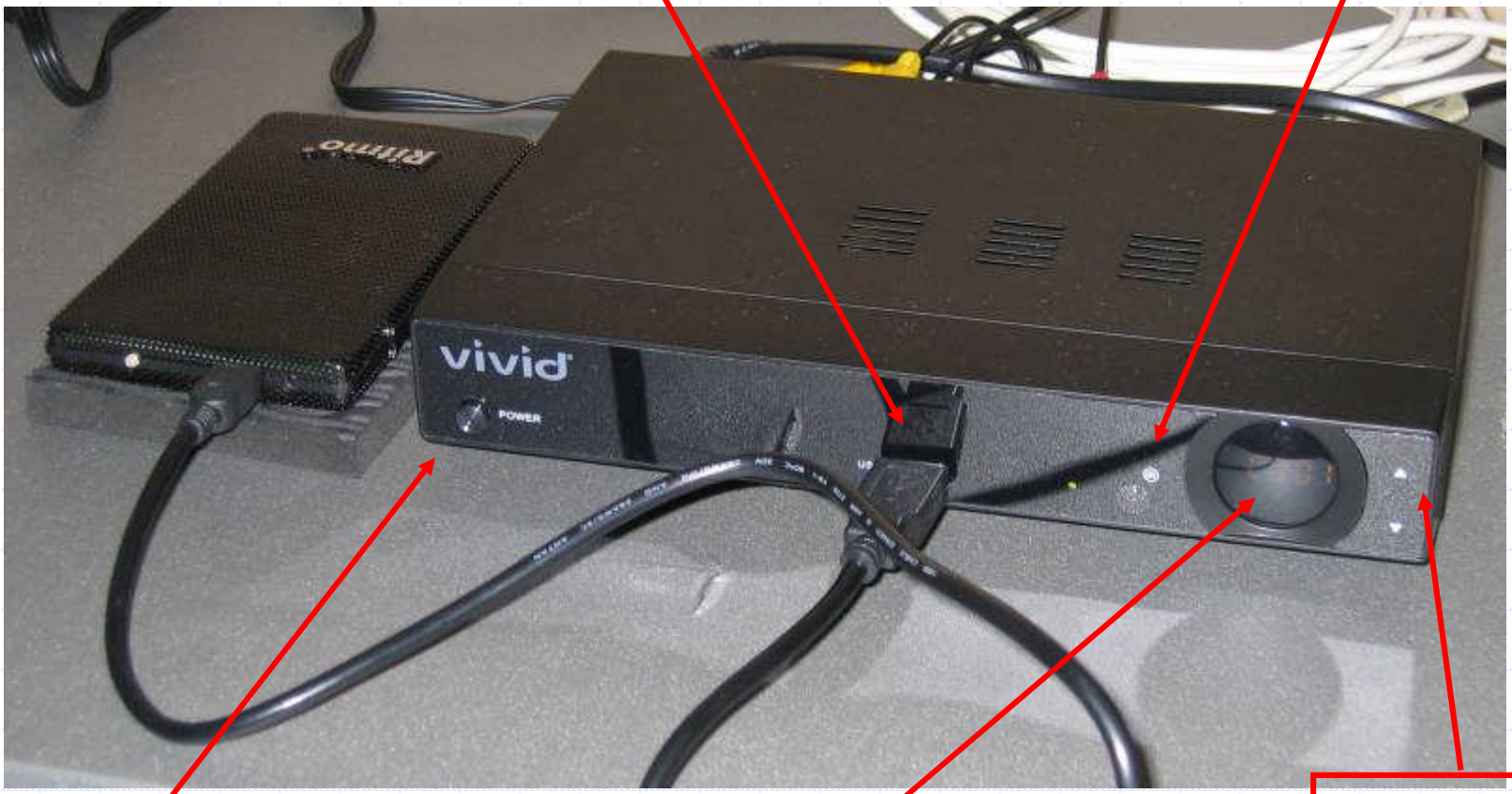
HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

vivid
1 year warranty
PVR FUNCTION VIA USB
HD TUNER
vivid
connect your memory drive or HDD via USB to record or playback TV, movies, music or photos
PVR function via USB allows you to access a range of multimedia

HD Set Top Box with PVR Function $ 39.99*

- Receives all free to air HD and SD channels available in your area
- DVB-T, MPEG-2 and MPEG-4 compliant
- PVR function via USB
- HDMI output
- Multimedia playback via USB

Vivid PVR From Aldi



Vivid Remote

- Standard features expected for a STB / PVR remote.
- Colour buttons are used to make selections when using the on screen menus.

Vivid Rear Connections

Antenna IN

Antenna Loop Through

Power

Vivid Rear Connections

Component Video

(Green, Red, Blue)

Composite Connection

Y = Video

L = Left Audio, R = Right Audio

Vivid Rear Connections

HDMI

Coax
(Amplifier Connection)

HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

- Features:
  - HD (1080i) & SD
  - Records in *.ts format, 2GB file size
  - Records to USB device
  - Records to NTFS, Fat32 or FAT
  - Plays video MP4, DivX AVI, and MKV files (not tested)
  - Plays photo slideshows JPG & BMP (not tested)
  - Plays audio files MP3 & WMA (not tested)
  - 7 day EPG
  - Timeshift (not tested)
  - Parental guidance (not tested)

HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

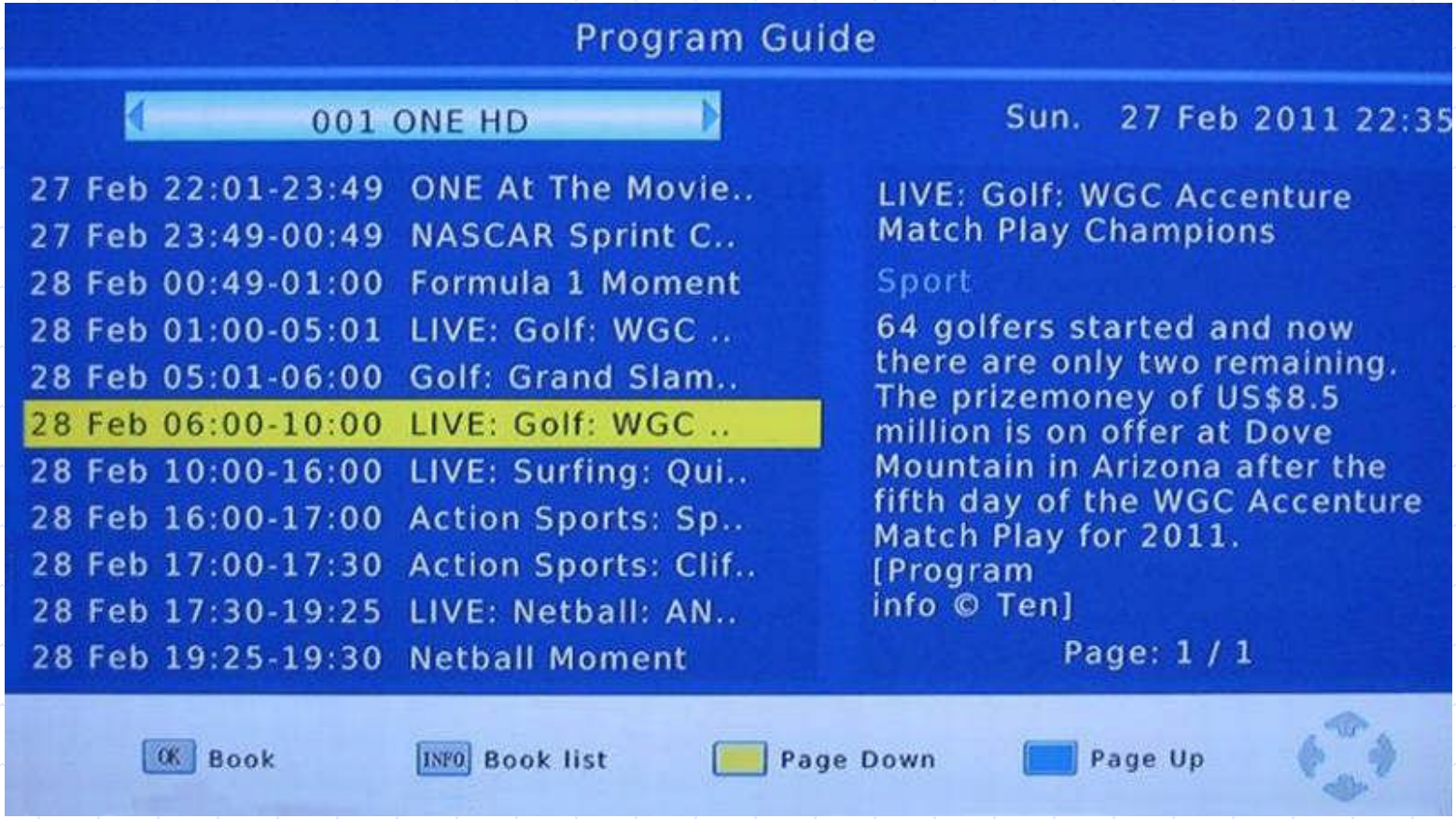
- Pros:
  - Easy to install
  - Clear manual , good use of screen shots
  - Picked up all digital channels
  - Menu system fairly intuitive & Easy to navigate
  - EPG clear and easy to use
  - Channel changing speed okay
  - Records to USB device
  - USB powers small hard drive

HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

- Cons:
  - Turns on from standby randomly (once a day)
  - USB power on continuously (hard drive spins continuously)
  - Time resets to default (2000) randomly
  - Channel list needed rescanning on two occasions
  - Remote wheel is very noisy
  - When a USB device is reconnected, you need to "configure" the device each time (i.e. select device)
  - The Vivid did not always record a scheduled program. (Probably user error caused by Parental Control or not using "Configure")

HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

- EPG (Electronic Program Guide)


Program Guide
001 ONE HD
Sun. 27 Feb 2011 22:35
27 Feb 22:01-23:49 ONE At The Movie..
27 Feb 23:49-00:49 NASCAR Sprint C..
28 Feb 00:49-01:00 Formula 1 Moment
28 Feb 01:00-05:01 LIVE: Golf: WGC ..
28 Feb 05:01-06:00 Golf: Grand Slam..
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28 Feb 16:00-17:00 Action Sports: Sp..
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LIVE: Golf: WGC Accenture Match Play Champions
Sport
64 golfers started and now there are only two remaining. The prizemoney of US$8.5 million is on offer at Dove Mountain in Arizona after the fifth day of the WGC Accenture Match Play for 2011.
[Program info © Ten]
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OK Book
INFO Book list
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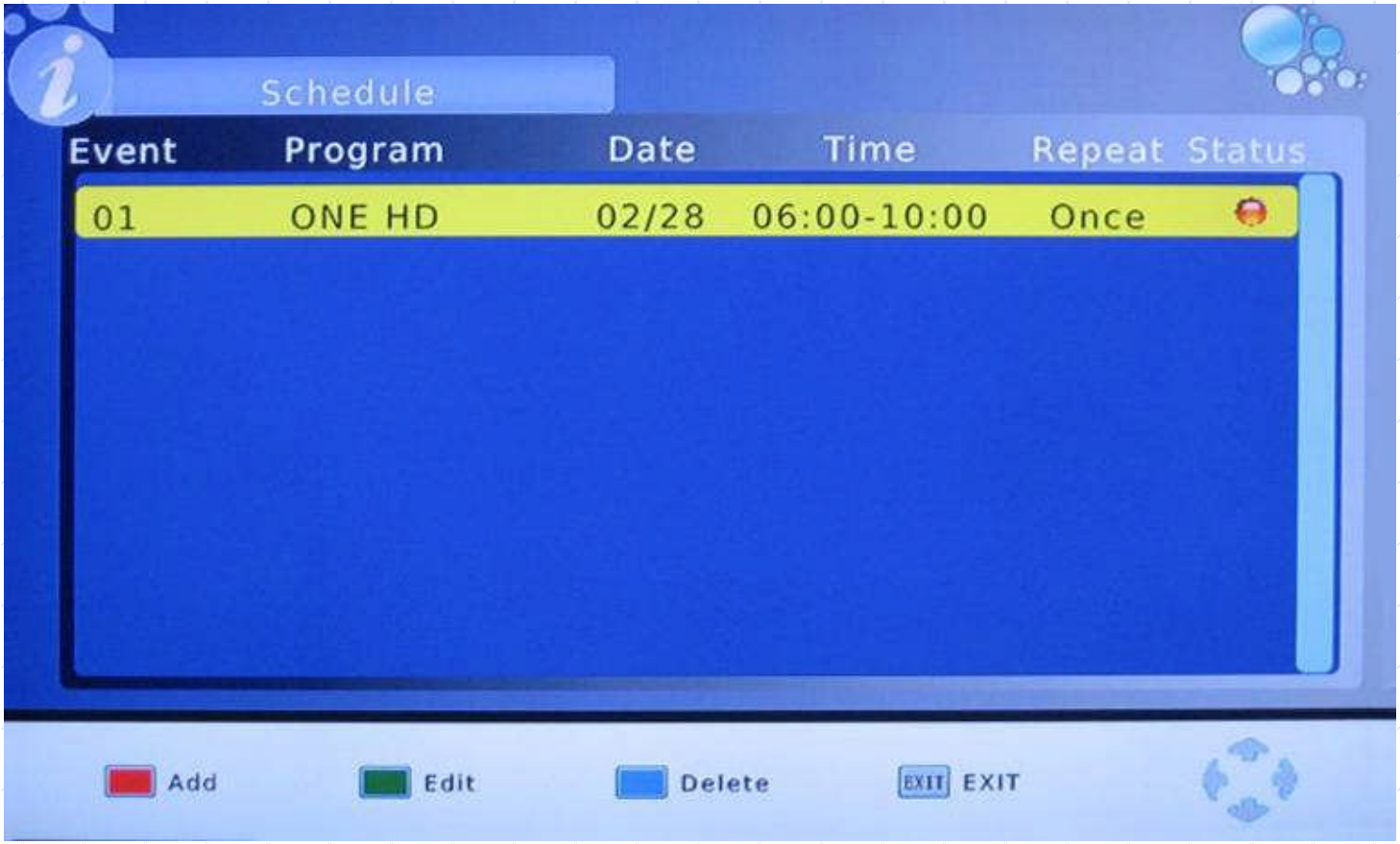
Page Up

HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

- Programming a PVR Recording

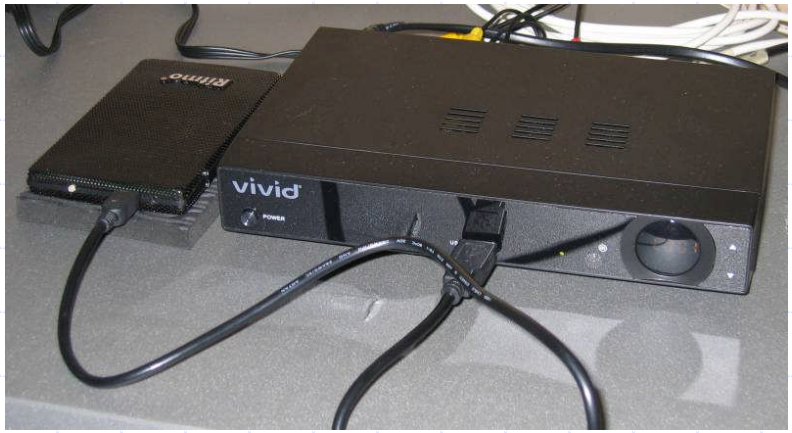
HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

- Recorded Program List



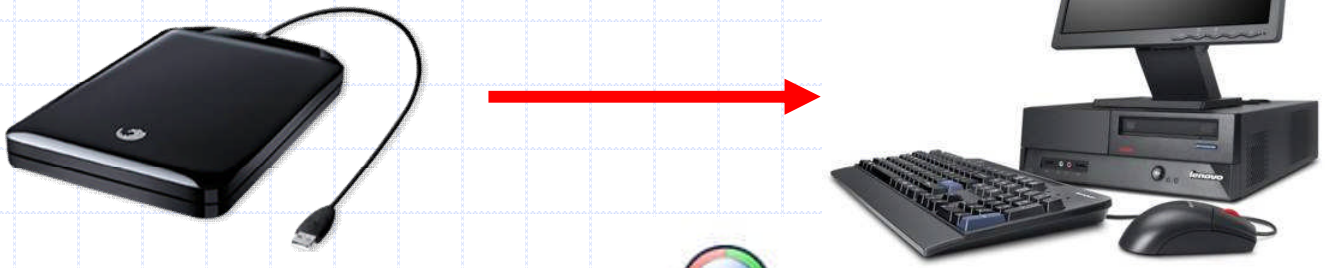
HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

- Playing *.ts files on a TV:
  - Using the Vivid PVR & portable Hard Drive connected to the TV via Composite cables
  - From Remote select Menu then navigate to the *.pvr folder
  - Press OK on the folder to be played then Full Screen
  - Smooth playback
  - Max Fast forward is X32
  - No Chapter settings



HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

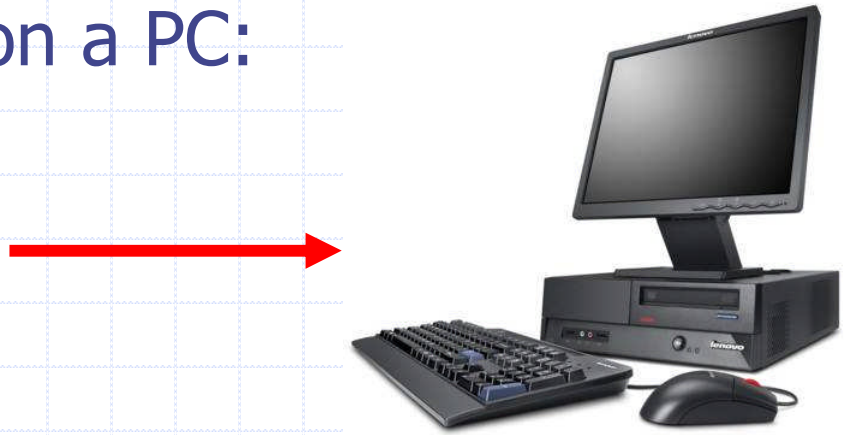
- Playing *.ts files on a PC:



  - Windows Media Player
    - Video - Excellent
    - Audio plays on SD recordings but NOT on HD recordings
  - VLC Player
    - Video – Poor in comparison, with some banding on fast moving scenes
    - Audio plays for both SD and HD recordings

HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

- Playing *.ts files on a PC:



  - Some individual *.ts files would not play on either Media Player or VLC, but played without issue through the PVR on a TV. They appeared to play but without video or sound.

  - Demonstration

HD STB (Vivid AT-STB500)

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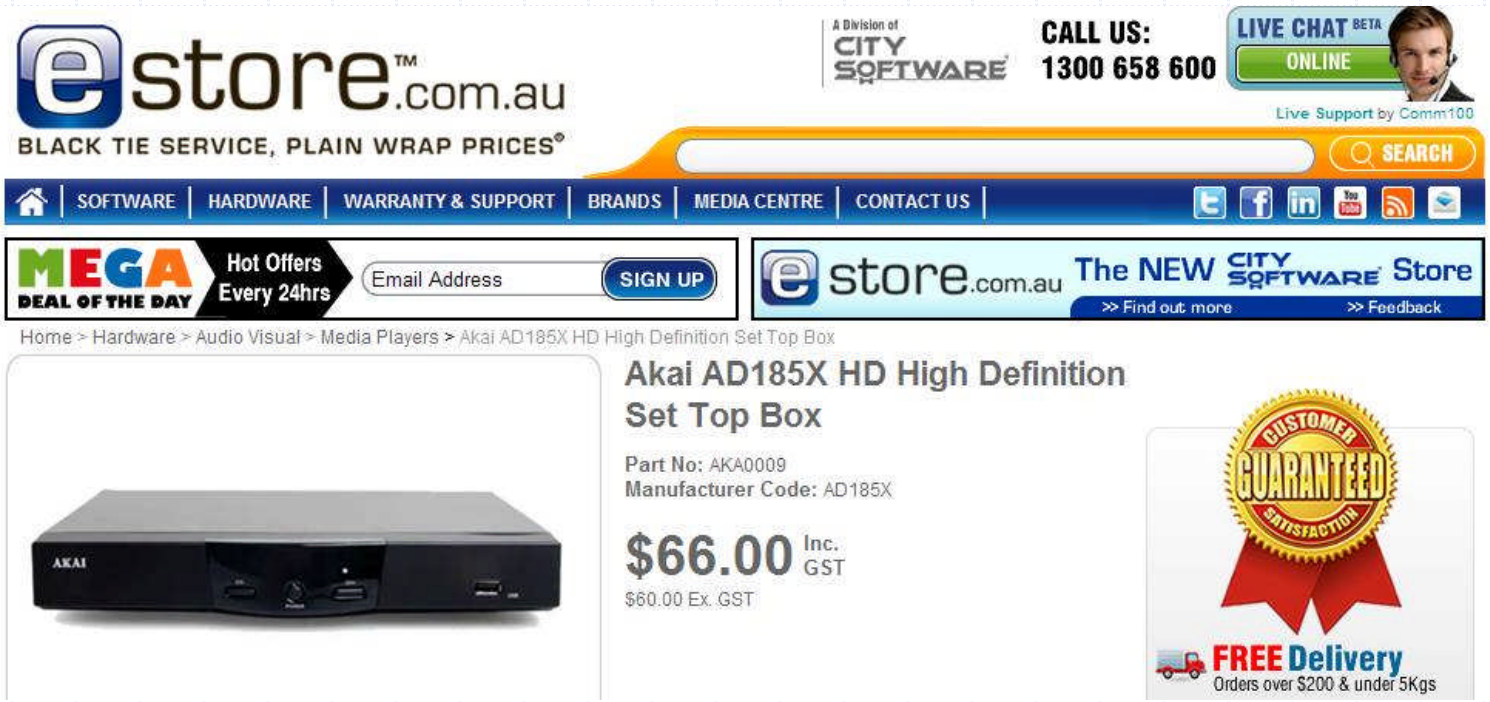
Return Vivid PVR to ALDI

Visit City Software to buy an AKAI AD185X.

AKAI HD STB (AD185X)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Home > Hardware > Audio Visual > Media Players > Akai AD185X HD High Definition Set Top Box
Akai AD185X HD High Definition Set Top Box
Part No: AKA0009
Manufacturer Code: AD185X
$66.00 Inc. GST
$60.00 Ex. GST
CUSTOMER GUARANTEED SATISFACTION
FREE Delivery
Orders over $200 & under 5Kgs

AKAI HD STB with PVR Function

Akai Distributor's Website – Audion (Shepparton)

AUDION

AD185X - Akai High Definition Set Top Box with PVR Function

(Akai)

$99.95 RRP Inc GST

Main Features:

- Record TV directly to a USB storage device
- Allows you to receive free to air digital TV
- Timeshift Function: pause, rewind, fast forward live TV
- 7 day EPG
- Play photos, music & videos via USB
- HDMI (up to 1080I)
- USB record live TV
- Parental control

AKAI AD185X Box (Front)

MELB PC USER GROUP

AKAI AD185X Box (Rear)

AKAI Makes Sense

MELB PC USER GROUP

High Definition Set Top Box

Record TV Directly to a USB Storage Device

HD High Definition

USB Recording

Play Photos, Music & Videos

Features

- Record directly to a USB storage device
- Supports up to 1080i
- HDMI output for a true digital experience
- Support HDMI, Component & Composite output
- RF loop through

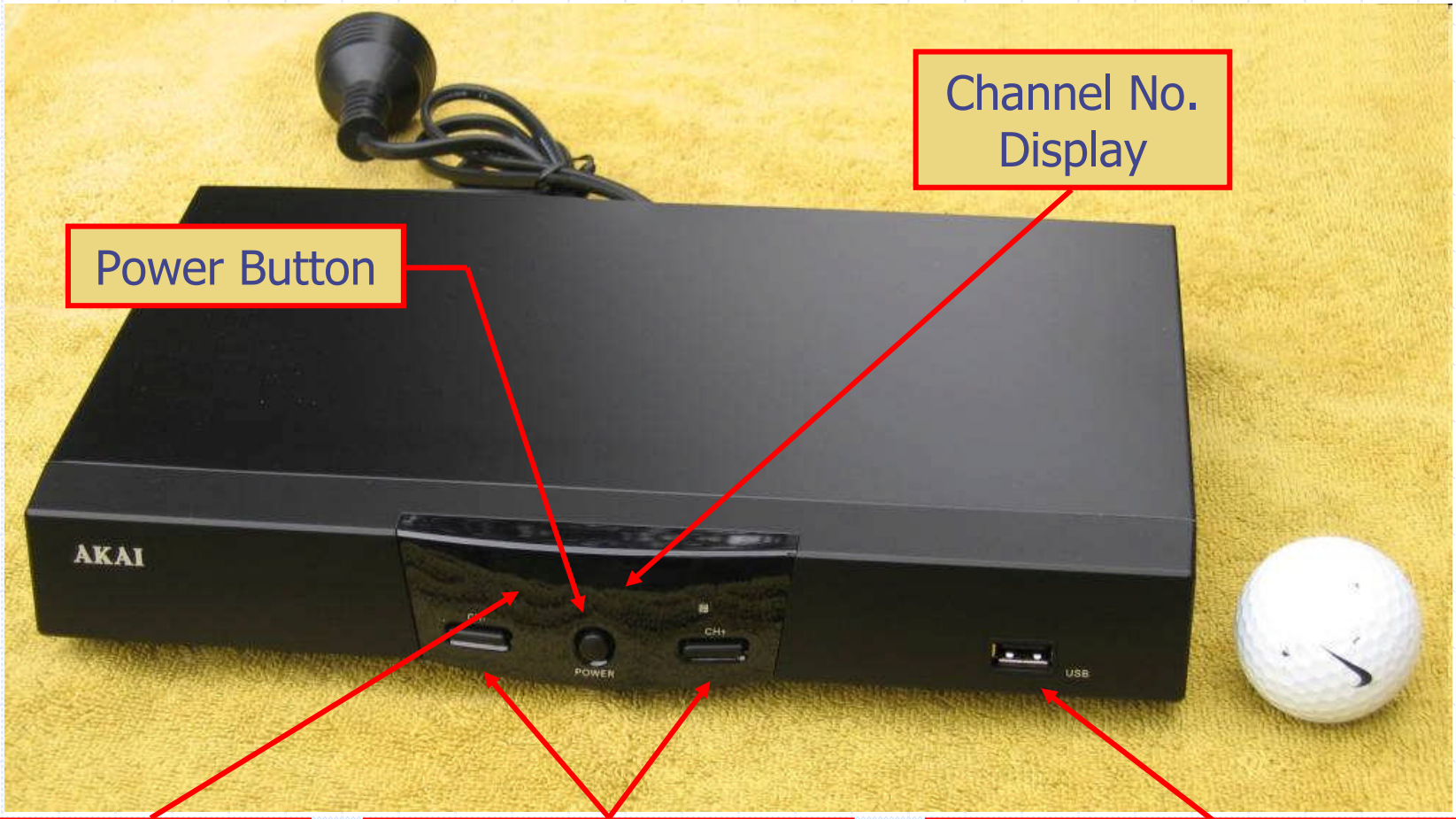
Specifications

- High Definition support: 1920 x 1080i, 1920 x 720p, 720 x 576p, 720 x 576i
- Video outputs supported: HDMI, Component & Composite output
- Audio outputs supported: HDMI & Composite
- Advanced audio processor

Package Contents

- Akai AD185X
- Composite AV Cable
- User manual
- Remote control

AKAI HD STB (AD185X)



AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

Component Video

(Green, Red, Blue)

Composite Connection

Y = Video

L = Left Audio, R = Right Audio

AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

Features: (From City Software Website)

- Allows you to receive free-to-air digital broadcasts in both standard definition and high definition for Australia Digital Broadcasting Networks only
- Record directly to a USB storage device
- Fully compliant with DVB-T and H.264, AVC, MPEG4, MPEG2 Std.
- Supports EPG, Display Present / Next TV Programme
- Supports HDMI, Component and Composite output
- SPDIF Coaxial Output *(None found)*
- HDMI (up to 1080i) Output
- PAL and NTSC Auto Switch
- Auto / Manual scan
- 1000 channels
- Parent Control

AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

Specifications:

- High Definition Support: 1920 x 1080i, 1920 x 720p, 720 x 576p, 720 x 576i
- Video Output Support: HDMI, Component and Composite output
- Support: FAT32 file system *(Also supports NTFS)*
- Support external hard drive up to 2TB
- Photo Format: JPG, BMP, GIF
- Audio Format: MP3, WMA, WAV
- Video Format: MPEG1 (VCD), MPEG2 (VOB), DIVX 5, XVID, AVI
- Advanced HD AVC/MPEG-2/VC-1 decoder
- Advanced audio processor reporting Dolby Digital
- Frequency Range: VHF-H - 174~230MHz; UHF - 470~860MHZ
- Dimensions: (W) 27cm x (D) 16cm x (H) 4.5cm
- Brand: Akai, Model: AD185X

AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

Package Contents:

- Akai AD185X HD set top box
- AV cables
- Remote control
- 2 x AAA batteries for remote control
- User manual

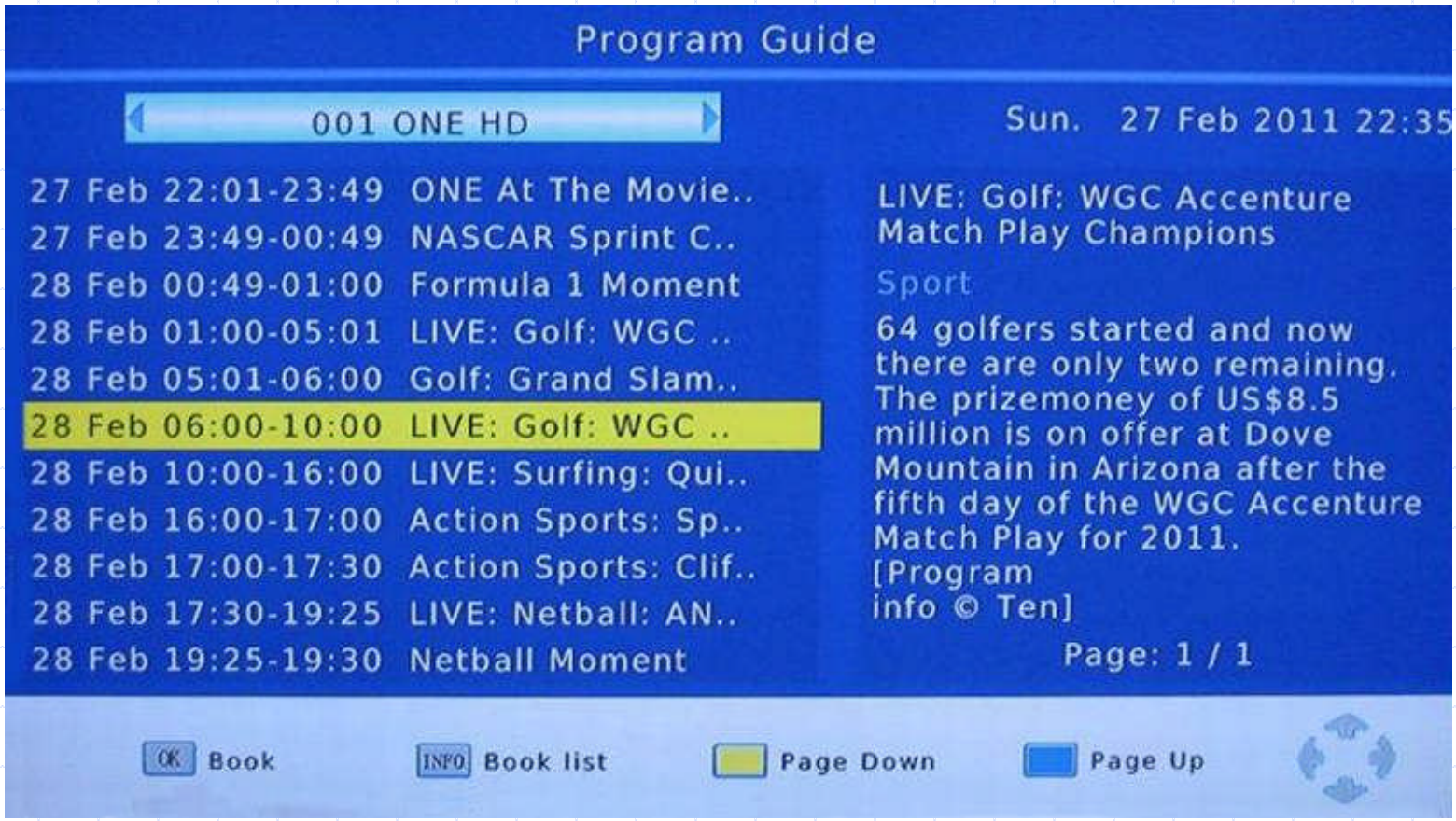
Website Note:

- PVR function will only work via usb flash and HDD'S no larger in size than 160GB NTFS / FAT32. *(Will take upto 2 TB according to City Software)*
- Playback function only works for AVI and DivX files depending on codec of file.

AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

Screen Views

- EPG (Electronic Program Guide)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[Program info © Ten]
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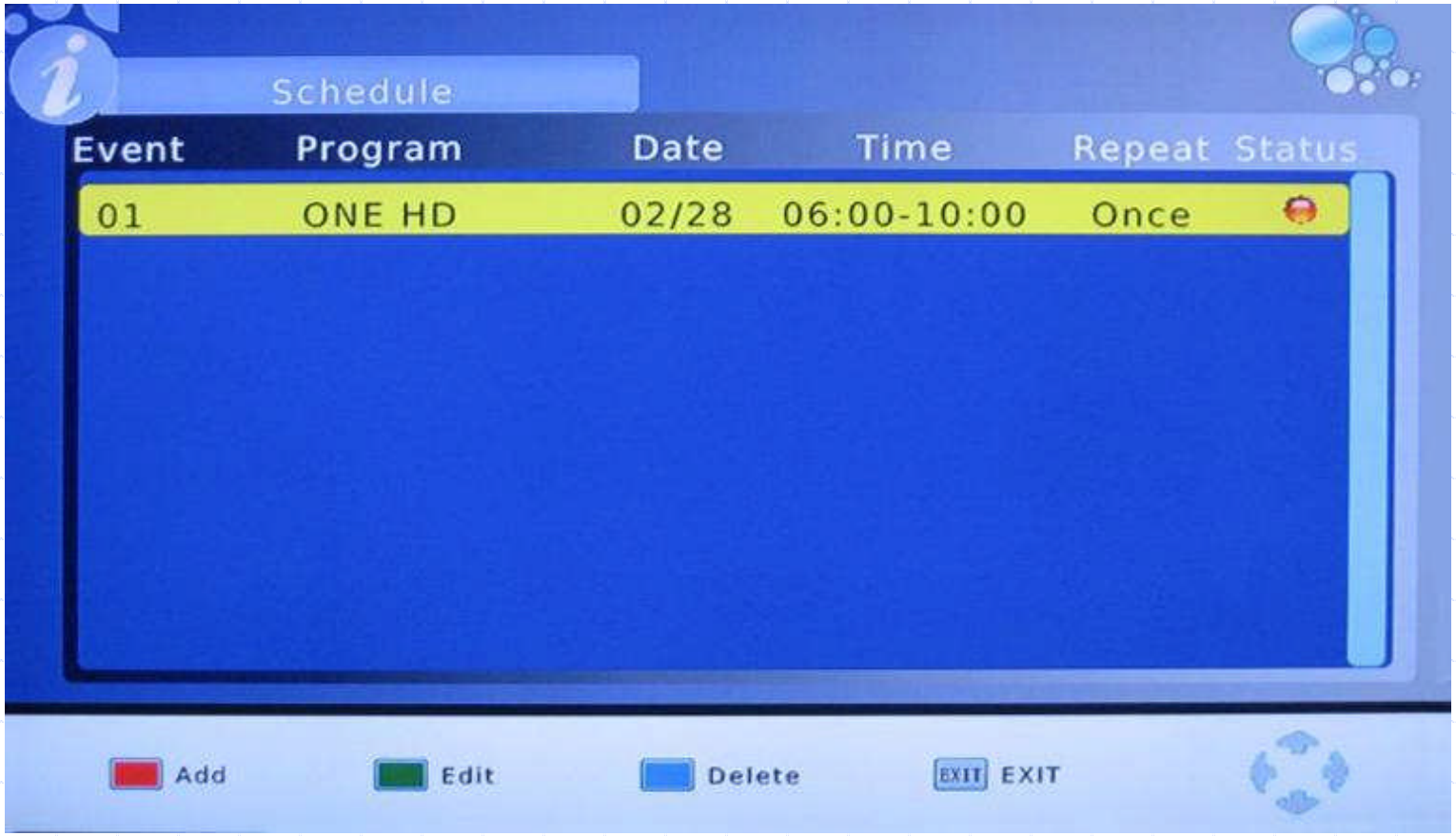
AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

- Schedule a Program to Record (or View)

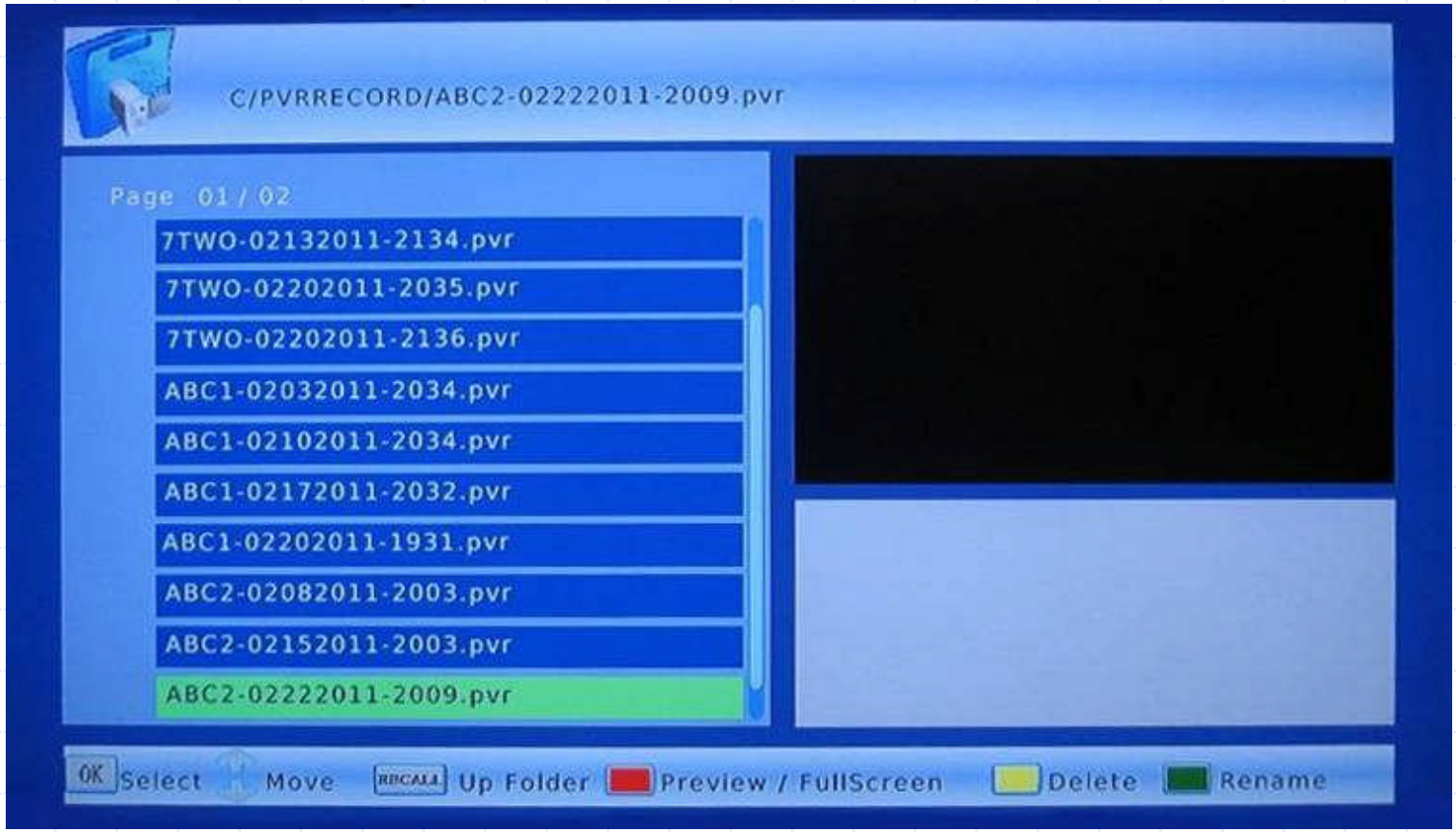
AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

- List of Programs to be Recorded



AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

- Recorded Programs on USB Device



AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

- Multimedia Screen

Comparison-AKAI v. Vivid

Comparison-AKAI v. Vivid

Comparison-AKAI v. Vivid

AKAI HD STB (AD185X)

- **Pros:**
  - Same firmware as the Vivid PVR
  - USB turns off when PVR is in Standby mode
  - PVR does not randomly turn on.
  - PVR (after 2 weeks use) has retained Time & Channel settings
- **Cons:**
  - Parental Control (Must be set to ensure a recording)
  - Some files will not play on a PC (but will convert with iWiSoft video converter)
  - We would happily recommend the AKAI AD185X.
- **Other Brands:**
  - Dick Smith & JB HiFi sell very similar PVRs and I suspect these may even run the same firmware.

The Next Step

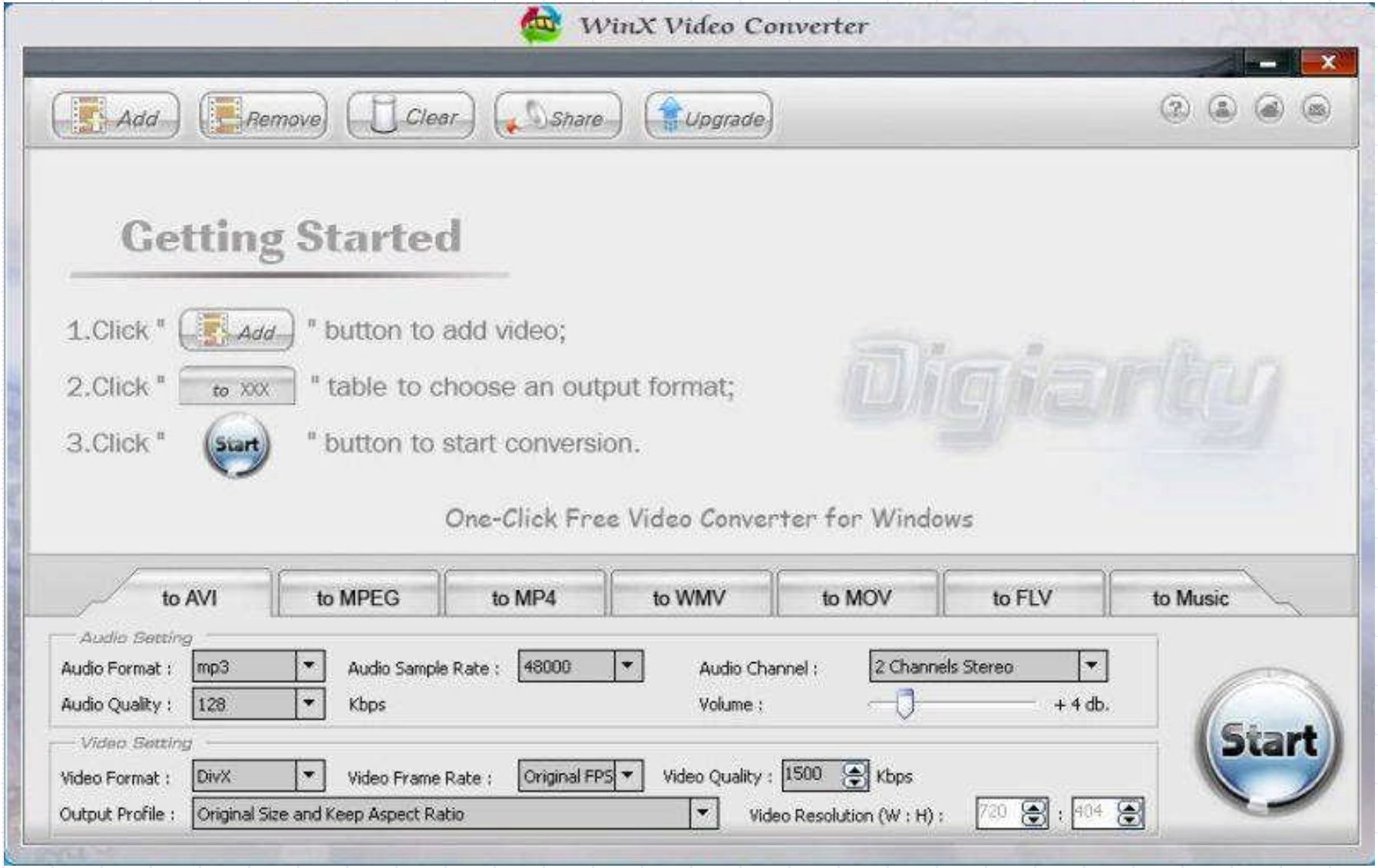
Software we've used to Convert the *.ts (transport stream) files recorded with our PVR:

- For playing on a PC or
- Playing on a Stand alone DVD player.

WinX Video Converter

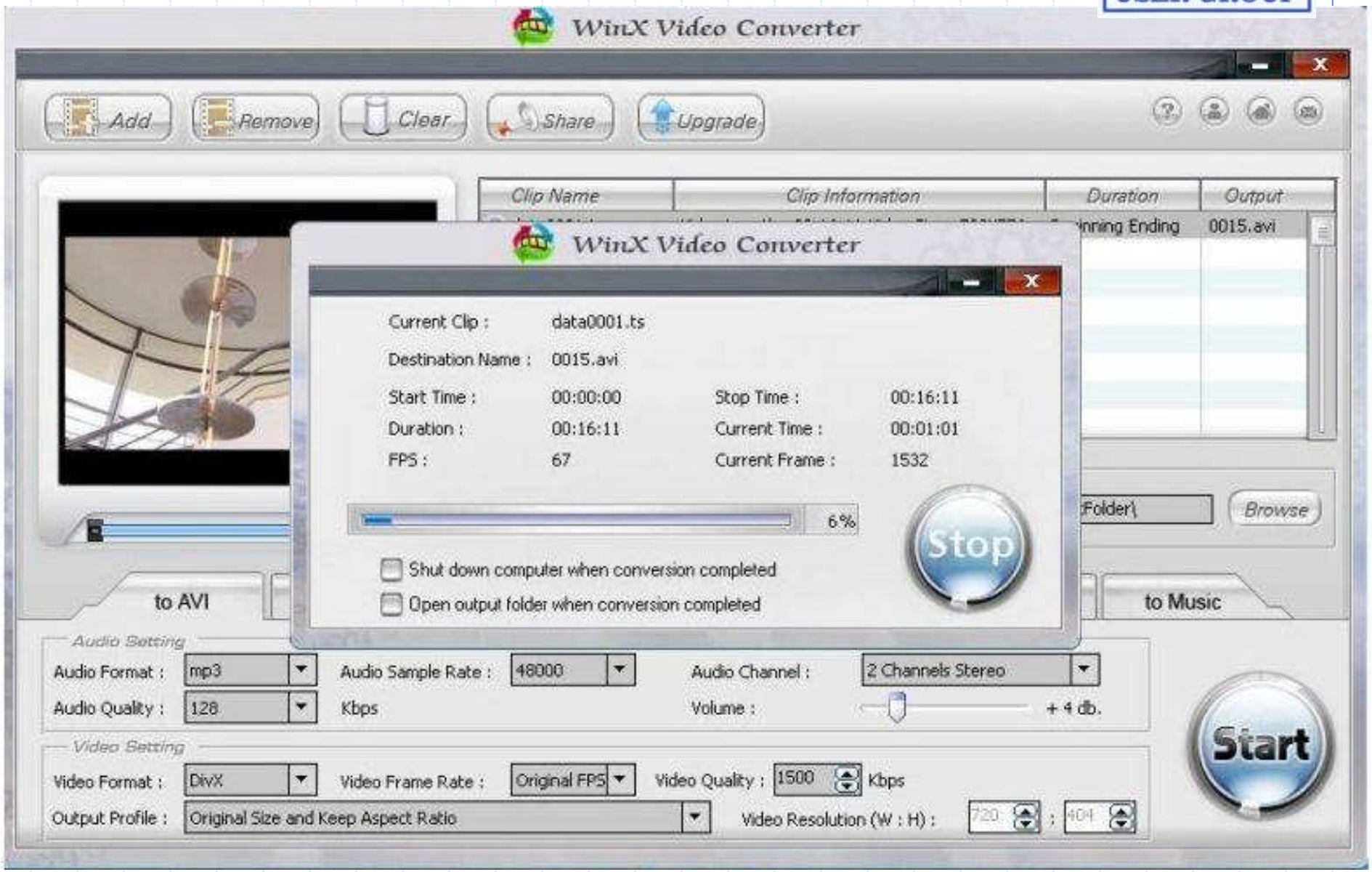
WinX Video Converter - Digiarty Software Inc
www.winxdvd.com Now selling $29.95
(Free Version no loger available or Monthly Disc Oct 2009)

WinX Video Converter

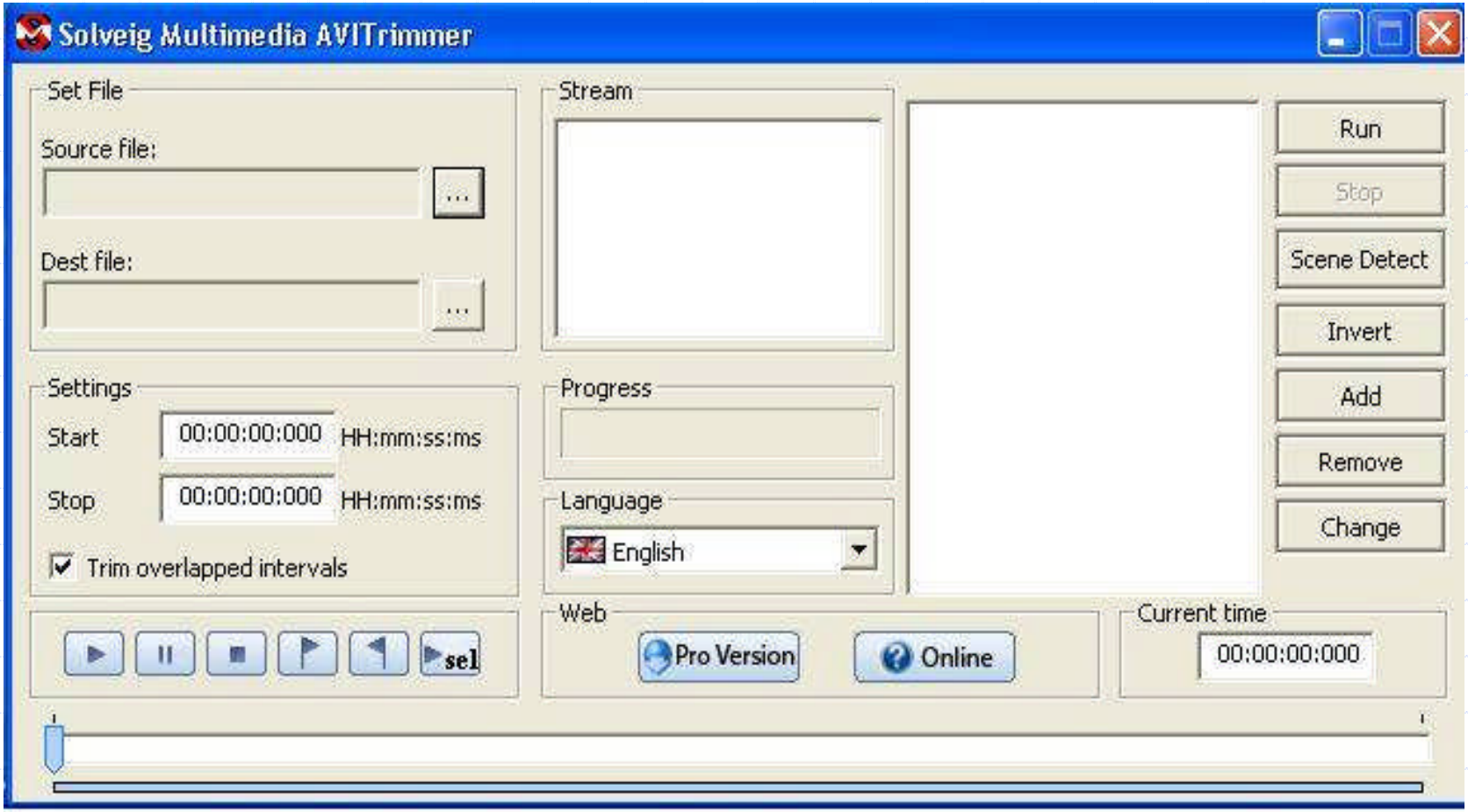


WinX Video Converter

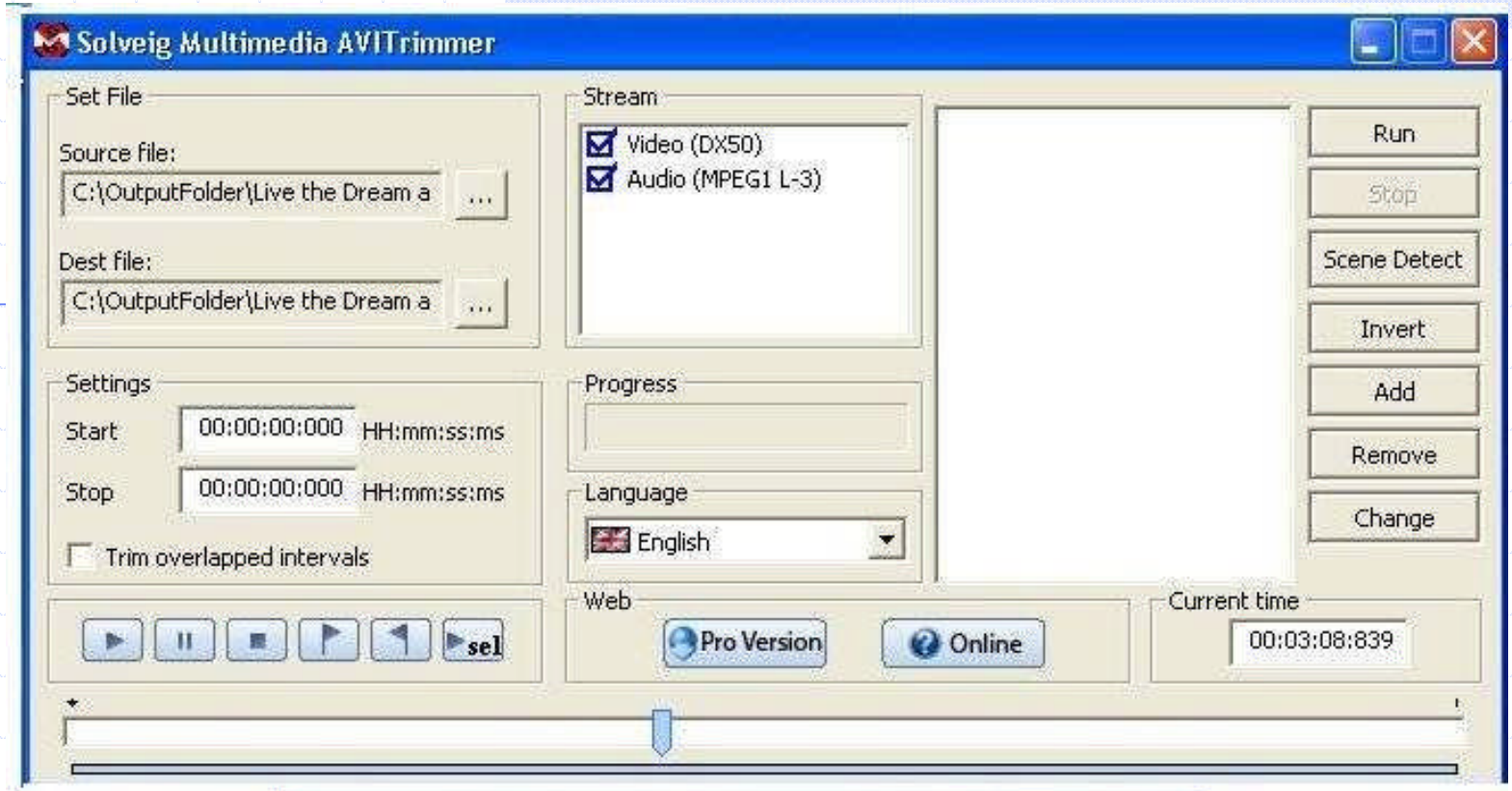
WinX Video Converter



SolveigMM AVI Trimmer



Solveig Multimedia http://www.solveigmm.com
(Free Version - Monthly Disc Nov 2010)



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Gizmo's Multimedia Freeware

MELB PC USER GROUP

Best Hybrid Conversion & Editing Program

gizmo's freeware The Best Freeware Reviewed and Rated

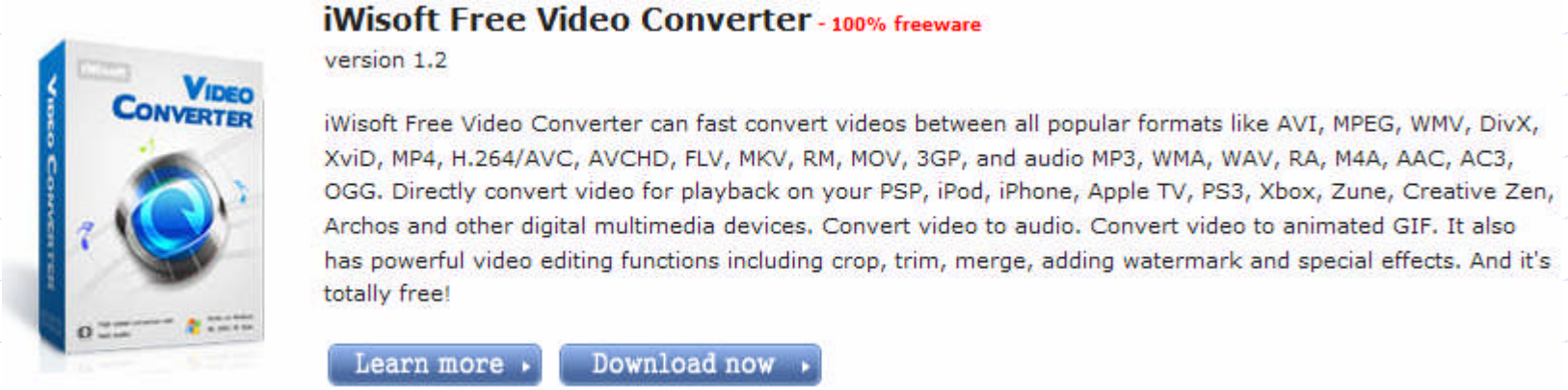
@ Gizmo Computer Tech Alert
http://www.techsupportalert.com/pc/multimedia-tools.html

iWiSoft Free Video Converter

8.7MB Version 1.2.0

iWiSoft Video Converter

iWiSoft Free Video Converter http://www.iwisoft.com (Freeware conversion & Editing Program – Web download)


iWisoft Free Video Converter - 100% freeware
version 1.2
iWisoft Free Video Converter can fast convert videos between all popular formats like AVI, MPEG, WMV, DivX, XviD, MP4, H.264/AVC, AVCHD, FLV, MKV, RM, MOV, 3GP, and audio MP3, WMA, WAV, RA, M4A, AAC, AC3, OGG. Directly convert video for playback on your PSP, iPod, iPhone, Apple TV, PS3, Xbox, Zune, Creative Zen, Archos and other digital multimedia devices. Convert video to audio. Convert video to animated GIF. It also has powerful video editing functions including crop, trim, merge, adding watermark and special effects. And it's totally free!
Learn more
Download now
Step 1
After launch the software, click
Add
to load video files.

iWiSoft Video Converter

Step 2

Select output profile.

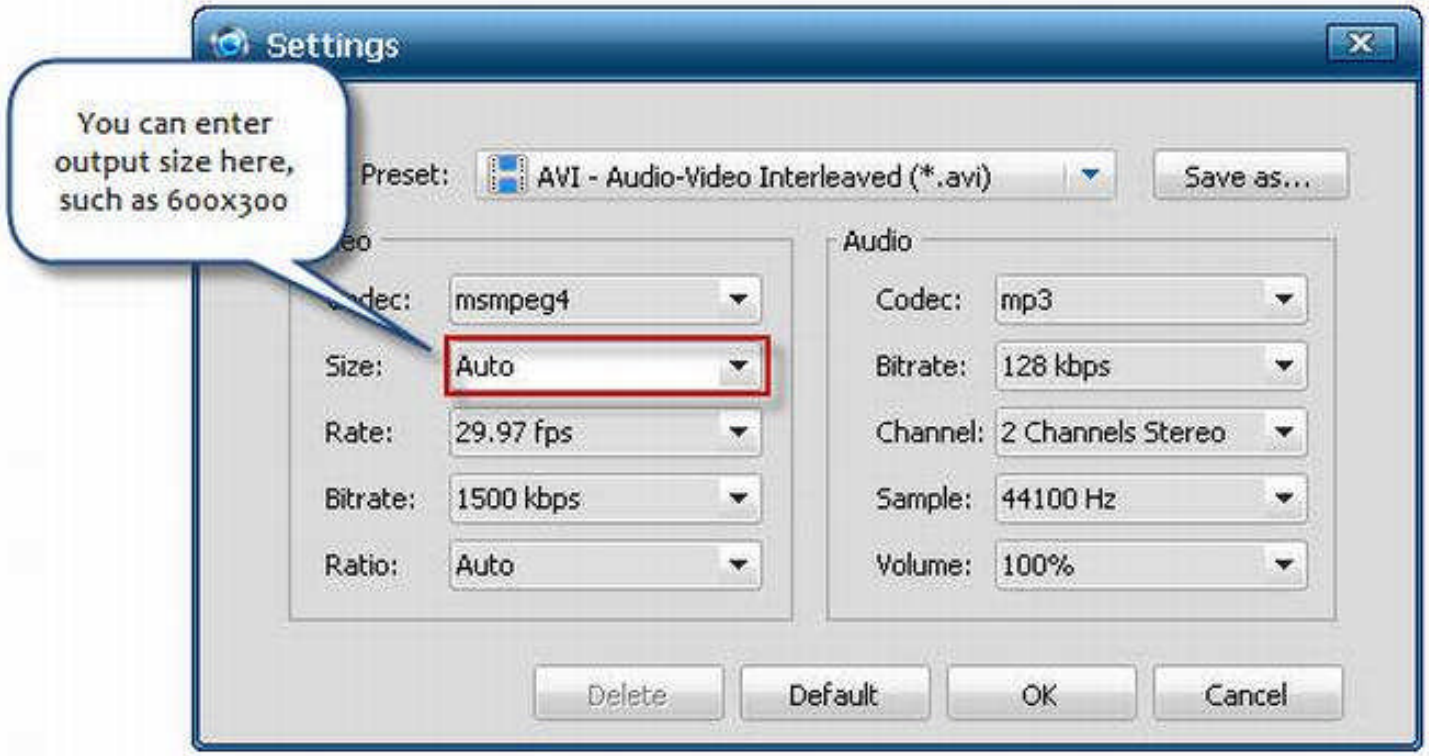
iWisoft Free Video Converter
File (F)
Visit Homepage
Recent
Common Video
Common Audio
iPod
iPhone
Apple TV
PSP, PS3
Mobile Phone
Windows Mobile, Xbox
Portable Multimedia Device
Wii and DS
HD Video
Flash Video and Picture
DVD, Others
User Defined
All Profiles
Source
1.mp4
ASF - Advanced Streaming Format (*.asf)
Microsoft advanced streaming media format, widely used for network broadcast.
WMV - Windows Media Video (*.wmv)
AVI - Audio-Video Interleaved (*
AVI - DivX Video (*.avi)
Video compression format based on MPEG4, with DVD-like picture quality and excellent sound quality.
AVI - Xvid Video (*.avi)
Developed by open source organization, with excellent picture quality and good sound quality.
MOV - QuickTime Video (*.mov)
Apple QuickTime format, widely used for network transmission, and compatile with multiple platforms.
MPEG-4 Movie (*.mp4)
Compression standard for network broadcast and video communication,with small size and high picture quality.
H.264/MPEG-4 AVC Video (*.mp4)
Extension of MPEG-4 video format, with high compression rate.
Select a profile
Profile:
AVI - Audio-Video Interleaved (*.avi)
Settings
Apply to all
Output :
C:\Documents and Settings\yj2\My Documents\iWisoft Free Video Converter
Find Target
Merge into one file
START
Click here to open profiles menu

iWiSoft Video Converter

Step 3

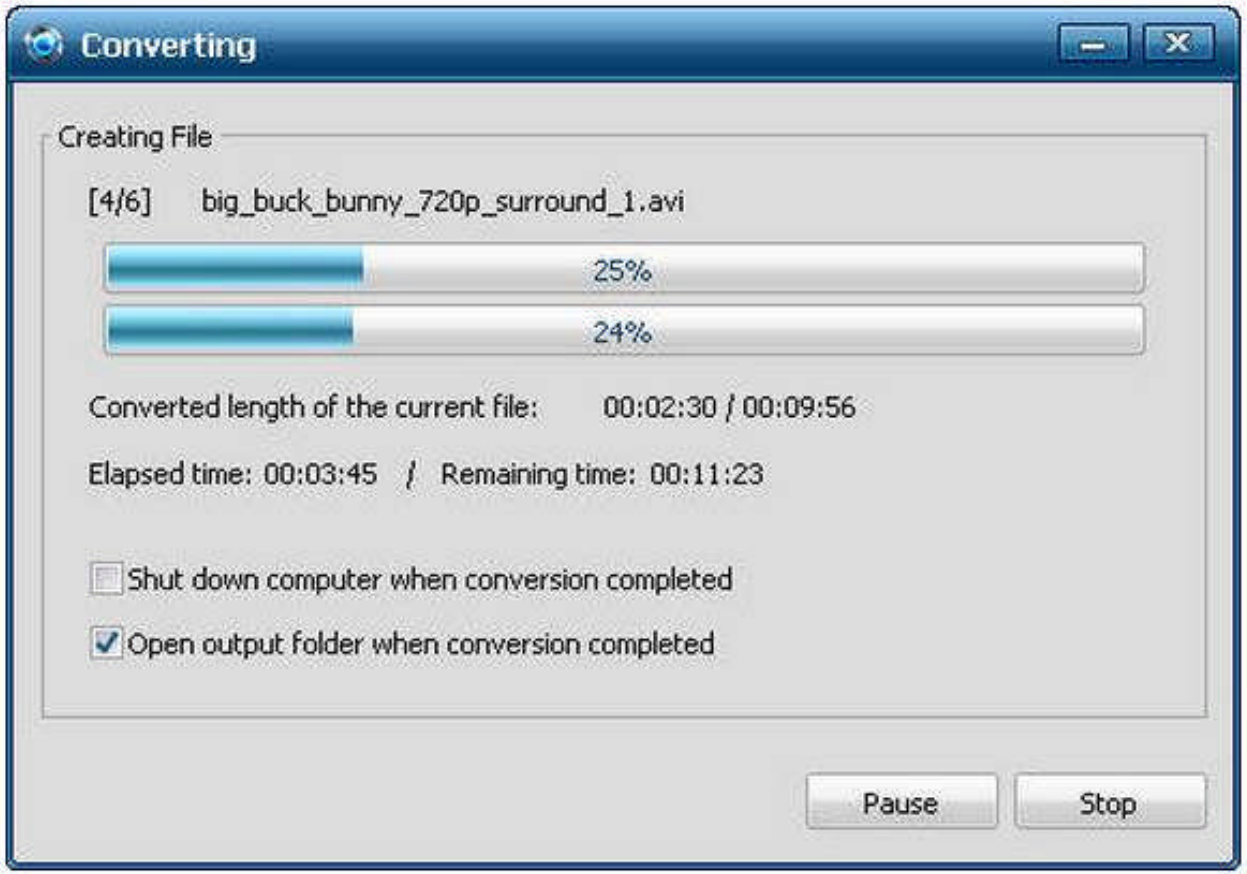
Click Settings button, and you can customize your video/audio parameters as you like.

Then click "OK" button to save your changes.



iWiSoft Video Converter

Step 4
Click "START" button to start converting videos.



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Questions?